

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 909 without my signature.

While I recognize the important work of school boards, this bill would allow school board members to reduce funding for direct classroom instruction in order to give themselves generous pay increases. To the extent possible, I believe funding should remain in the classroom to improve student achievement.

Furthermore, instead of doubling the maximum compensation at one time, as this bill would allow, current law already provides reasonable flexibility to governing boards to increase their own compensation, by not more than five percent annually, beyond the limits already established in statute.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger